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COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Second session
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Agenda item 7

OTHER MATTERS

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Matters related to the inter-sessional work of the Commission

1. The Commission, taking into account its mandate to coordinate and review progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, bearing in mind the experience acquired so far in work carried out inter-sessionally and recognizing the need for further rationalization and integration of future inter-sessional activities with a view to adequately preparing for its third session:

(a) Reconfirms the mandate of its Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Finance, as contained in paragraph 61 of chapter I of the report on its first session; 1/ requests the Working Group, in carrying out its mandate to, inter alia, (i) focus more directly on the financial sources and mechanisms appropriate to sectoral issues under review by the Commission; (ii) develop a matrix of financial sources and mechanisms which can be applied to these sectors, and maintain the integrated approach; and (iii) pursue the study of selected innovative financing mechanisms, as well as of economic instruments; and also requests the Working Group to involve more actively international financial institutions and other multilateral funding organizations and the private sector in its work, bearing in mind the need to bring together concrete projects and private actors;

(b) Decides to establish an inter-sessional ad hoc, open-ended working group composed of Governments, which will nominate experts to assist the Commission in the preparation, in a coordinated and integrated way, of the

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examination of sectoral issues to be reviewed by the Commission at its third session, in accordance with the multi-year thematic programme of work of the Commission - namely, the sectoral cluster entitled "Land, desertification, forests and biodiversity". The mandate of the working group should be:

(i) To review chapters 10 to 15 of Agenda 21 and the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, taking account, as appropriate, of inputs from other forums, such as the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention on Biological Diversity and the respective Conventions, inasmuch as such inputs have a bearing on the work of the Commission;

(ii) To take stock of inter-sessional activity organized by Governments or international organizations on sectoral issues under review at the Commission's third session;

(iii) To group together initiatives under way on a particular sectoral issue;

(iv) To convey the results of relevant inter-sessional work to the Commission;

(v) To make recommendations on the organization of the Commission's discussions of sectoral issues in the light of inter-sessional activity.

2. The Commission, taking into account the need for effective implementation of its functions related to the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building, decides that the functions of its Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Technology Transfer and Cooperation, established at its first session for a trial period of one year, will be carried out by the two ad hoc working groups referred to above as follows:

(a) The Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Finance will consider all issues related to the financial aspects of transfer of environmentally sound technologies;

(b) The Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Sectoral Issues will consider technology transfer issues in relation to the specific sectoral issues under review in 1995, including the experience of individual countries.

3. The Commission decides that the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Sectoral Issues will have a one-year mandate so that the Commission can review its performance at its third session, in 1995.

4. The Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Groups on Finance and Sectoral Issues should meet for a period of one week each, at least six weeks before the third session of the Commission. The meeting on sectoral issues should take place before that on finance in order to facilitate the identification of the resource needs and mechanisms applicable to specific sectors.

5. The Commission requests the Secretariat, in order to ensure transparency, to disseminate, as appropriate, within existing resources, information about inter-sessional activities and their results, possibly on the basis of a common reporting format.